

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing rumpling of metallic components, comprising:

_____ the application of a ceramic coating based on ZrO_2 having a thickness of less than $50 \mu m$ to a metallic component whereby the ceramic coating forms an exposed outer layer;

_____ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the metallic component is coated with an aluminum-containing metallic oxidation protection coating; and

_____ the ceramic coating is applied directly to said aluminum containing metallic oxidation protection coating.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 characterized in that the thickness of the coating is up to $30 \mu m$.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that the thickness of the ceramic coating is less than $20 \mu m$.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that the ceramic coating consists of an oxidic ceramic material.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, characterized in that the thickness of the ceramic coating is at least 10 μm .

8. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a metallic component ~~comprises comprising:~~

_____ applying a thin ceramic coating comprising zirconia having a thickness of up to 30 μm to said component, said ceramic coating forming an exposed outer layer, wherein:

_____ an oxidation protection coating comprising an aluminum-containing metallic oxidation protection coating is first applied to said metallic component; and

_____ said ceramic coating is applied directly to said oxidation protection coating.

9. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 8, characterized in that said ceramic coating is produced by electron beam physical vapor deposition (EB-PVD) or air plasma spraying (APS).

10. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 8, characterized in that said ceramic coating is produced by chemical vapor deposition (CVD), electrophoresis followed by microwave sintering, or dip coating with ceramic precursors followed by sintering.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said metallic component is a rotor or stator.

12. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 8 wherein said metallic component is a rotor or stator.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a metallic component ~~such as a rotor or stator~~ against the effects of rumpling, comprising the steps of:

applying an oxidation protection coating comprising NiCoCrAlY directly to the metallic component and thereafter applying a ceramic coating comprising zirconia having a thickness of less than 50 μm to said oxidation protection coating;

said ceramic coating forming an exposed outer layer.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the aluminum-containing metallic oxidation protection coating comprises NiCoCrAlY.

18. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 8, wherein the aluminum-containing metallic oxidation protection coating comprises NiCoCrAlY.

19. (Cancelled)